

Up to and including June of this year, Unemployment Compensation benefits paid to workers throughout the United States have reached the staggering total of \$1,107,504,000, with an average number of 1,268,556 receiving benefits each week during June. In the state of Pennsylvania alone, a grand total of \$152,225,000 has been paid out with an average weekly total of beneficiaries reaching 89,666 in June.

With a surplus available for benefits on June 30th of \$1,744,198,000, every worker covered by insurance is amply assured of receiving his benefits when and as he may have a claim upon them.

The Republican Party did *not* hear the appeal of the helpless victims of the depression. The Democratic Party took affirmative action. But today the opposition raises its voice feebly and whispers: "The Social Security Program is all right, only we could do it better."

We well remember that in the campaign of 1936 the Republican Party called the Social Security Program a "hoax and a fraud." They indicated that they would scrap this beneficent undertaking. They ridiculed it in their quest for office, but the people endorsed the program and thunderously gave their approval with a record-breaking majority from 46 states.

The people approved by this overwhelming vote the leadership of our President and the administration of the Nation's affairs by the Democratic Party. The President's handling of the economic crisis was in striking contrast to the "do nothing" attitude of his Republican predecessors.

Other vitally important undertakings of the administration could be cited with approval, if time permitted. We could refer to the gains made in the cause of labor which has its charter of rights and to which has not only been accorded the right of collective bargaining but the right of decent wages and satisfactory hours and working conditions. Reference could be made to the aid given agriculture against the double threat of glutted markets and ruinous prices. Proof could be adduced as to the beneficial results of the administration's efforts in suppressing wild-cat stock operation, which under Republican administration mulcted the people of this Country millions of dollars annually.

Again, accomplishment in the interest of the general public has been made through the Rural Electrification Program and the supplying of power through government-operated agencies. Homes in Pennsylvania and other states of the Country now enjoy conveniences that were denied them under pre-existing conditions. It is noteworthy that, in the administration's undertakings for the good of the general public, it oftentimes met resistance from utility interests such as that in which Mr. Willkie has been a prominent figure.

But, all during the period when these domestic problems were being studied and solved in our own land, there was brewing abroad another and greater problem which ultimately was to affect this Country. Despite the fact that the American people had been lulled into a false security under the Republican Party, President Roosevelt recognized clearly, in advance of other people in this Country, the full possible effect on us of the happenings in Europe.

When he entered in office in 1933 it was after the Republican Party had boasted that the army of the United States "had reached the irreducible minimum consistent with self-reliance, self-respect and security for the Country." The irreducible minimum gave us *no security*. The President, who had served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, knew that this branch of the service was